

CHAPTER 3**The Problem of Doubt****D**id God really say that?**O**r maybe He didn't.**U**nless I see it, I won't**B**elieve it! I'm thus**T**empting God rather than trusting Him!

God says what He means and means what He says! It's impossible for God to _____ (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2) or deceive. Whenever God speaks, He speaks the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (Numbers 23:19; John 17:17). God makes no mistakes and He is never wrong. People may err (be in error), but not the Bible (see Matthew 22:29). In Mark 14:49 Jesus said that the _____ (that which God has said and which has been written down in the Bible) must be _____. Everything God says must come to pass! Therefore, what a terrible sin it is to DOUBT God's Word and to QUESTION what He has said!

In Genesis 1:3 we read, "AND GOD SAID, Let there be light." What is the very next thing that this verse says? _____ Did God's Word come to pass? _____

Write the first 3 words in

Genesis 1:6

**GOD SPEAKS**

Write the last 4 words in

Genesis 1:7

**AND IT COMES TO PASS**

("THE SCRIPTURES MUST BE FULFILLED")

Please complete the following chart:

| God Speaks | Genesis Chapter 1 | And It Comes To Pass |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| v.9 _____ | dry land appears | v.9 _____ |
| v.11 _____ | vegetation | v.11 _____ |
| v.14 _____ | sun, moon, stars | v.15 _____ |
| v.24 _____ | land animals | v.24 _____ |
| v.29 _____ | food for man & beast | v.30 _____ |
| Psalm 33:9—"For _____ and _____" | | |
| Psalm 148:5—"for _____ and _____" | | |

All that God says **must** come to pass! See if you can find the FULFILLMENT for the following promises and predictions of God:

| AND GOD SAID (Prediction) | AND IT WAS SO (Fulfillment) |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1: _____ |
| 2. Psalm 22:18 | Matthew 27: _____ |
| 3. Matthew 26:34 | Matthew 26: _____ |
| 4. Matthew 27:63 | Matthew 28: _____ |
| 5. 1 Kings 13:3 | 1 Kings 13: _____ |
| Can you find other promises and fulfillments in the Bible? | |

Has God ever failed to fulfill a promise (Joshua 21:45; 23:14)? _____ Everything will come to pass *just as God has said!*

Questioning God's Word

Satan is called the great L _____ (John 8:44) and DECEIVER (Rev. 20:3,8,10). In Genesis 3:1 he **questioned** God's Word, "YEA, _____" ("Did God really say that?"). Ever since the Serpent met Eve, he has been trying to make men and women **question** and **doubt** God's Word. One example of this is found in 2 Peter 3:3-4 where the scoffers (mockers) of the last days are saying, "WHERE IS THE _____ OF HIS _____?" (continued on the next page)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Genesis 3:1 | 2 Peter 3:3-4 |
| HATH GOD SAID? | HATH GOD PROMISED? |
| Did God really say not to eat? | Is Christ really coming again? |

What PROMISE was given to Abraham in Genesis 17:15-16? _____
 _____ Did Abraham BELIEVE God's Word did he QUESTION God's
 Word (Genesis 17:17)? _____ What PROMISE did
 Sarah hear in Genesis 18:10? _____ Did Sarah
 BELIEVE God's Word or did she QUESTION God's Word (Gen. 18:11-12)? _____
 _____ Therefore, this son was named _____
 (Genesis 17:19) which means "LAUGHTER" as a constant reminder to his parents that they
 should never DOUBT God's Word or LAUGH at God's promises!

Contradicting God's Word

Not only does Satan want us to QUESTION and DOUBT God's Word, but he also wants us to CONTRADICT and DENY what God has said. In Genesis 2:17 God told Adam that he would surely (most certainly) _____ if he would eat the forbidden fruit. Did God's Word come to pass (Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12)? _____

| | |
|--|---|
| Genesis 2:17 | Genesis 3:4 |
| God Said "Thou shall surely die!" | The Serpent Said: "Ye shall not surely die!" |

Consider Matthew 16:21-22. Jesus SPOKE and said He **must** suffer, die and be raised again. Peter should have said, "Lord, You have SPOKEN, and even though I don't understand it, IT MUST BE SO!" But Peter said the very opposite: "THIS SHALL _____ BE!" Who inspired Peter to **contradict** and **deny** God's Word (Matthew 16:23)? _____

It is a terrible sin not to believe what God says. Indeed, according to 1 John 5:10, the person who does not believe God is actually accusing God of being a _____! PERISH THE THOUGHT! LET IT NOT BE!

Is It Ever Right To Doubt?

Sometimes **doubt** can be a virtue! At times it is necessary to question what someone says! If we believe everything people tell us, we can get ourselves into trouble. Though we usually believe what men tell us (see 1 John 5:9), we should not always believe what people say, lest we be **deceived**:

1. Should Joshua have doubted the words of the inhabitants of Gibeon (Josh. 9:3-15)? _____
2. Should the man of God have doubted the old prophet (1 Kings 13:11-18)? _____
3. Should Eve have doubted the Serpent (Genesis 3:1-5)? _____
4. Should the wise men have doubted Herod (Matthew 2:8)? _____
5. Should Naaman have doubted Gehazi (2 Kings 5:20-27)? _____
6. Should Abimelech have doubted Abraham (Genesis 20:1-5)? _____
7. Should the world doubt the man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12)? _____

Most often we believe the words of men (1 John 5:9), but sometimes men lie and deceive, and we need to be careful. Sometimes it is right to doubt what men say, but *it is never right to doubt what God has said!* Why not? _____

The Doubting Disciple

Who was the doubting disciple (John 20:24-29)? _____ What pleases God the most, belief based on sight or belief based on what God has said (John 20:29)? _____

_____ Was Thomas the only one who doubted the resurrection (Matthew 28:17; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:17-26)? _____ Was Thomas the only doubting disciple (Matthew 14:31)? _____

_____ Did DOUBTING THOMAS become CONVINCED THOMAS (John 20:26-28)? _____

Assurance of Salvation

Many people have **doubts** about their salvation: “Am I really saved?” “Do I really have eternal life?” “Have I lost my salvation?” “Have I committed the unpardonable sin?” “Will I really go to heaven when I die?” “I don’t *feel* like I am saved.”

It is wonderful to know that we do not need to doubt our salvation, but we can know _____ that we are saved and that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13). This **assurance** (“I’m **sure** that I’m saved”) is not based on FEELINGS, but it is based on *what God has said!*

Jesus said, “He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47) Have you believed on Christ (John 3:16)? Have you come to Him as a lost sinner who desperately needs a Saviour (John 6:37)? Have you received Christ as your Saviour from sin (John 1:12)? Do you believe that Christ died to take the punishment for your sins and rose again to give you His life (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 4:25)? Are you *right now* trusting in Christ and in Christ alone for your salvation (Acts 4:12)? If so, then God says that you **have eternal life** (John 6:47) as a present possession. Don’t doubt Him or question Him or accuse Him of being a liar (1 John 5:10), but just REST down upon what HE HAS SAID and start to enjoy the gift He has given you (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 9:15).

Tempting the Lord (A Dangerous Form of Doubt)

1. What does the name “MASSAH” mean (Exodus 17:7; Deut. 6:16)?

2. What question did the children of Israel ask in Exodus 17:7?

How did the LORD previously prove that He was among His people....

in Exodus 14:13-31? _____

in Exodus 15:22-27? _____

in Exodus 16:1-31? _____

Thus we can say that their question in Exodus 17:7 was an expression of (circle one) a) innocent curiosity as to whether or not God was with them b) a deep inner belief that God really was with them c) doubt as to God’s care and provision for their every need d) their concern for Moses—they asked this question just to see if their leader had the proper understanding of God.

3. According to 1 Samuel 17:39 we learn that TESTING (tempting) involves **doubting** the quality or character of something. David doubted the quality and suitability of what? _____

_____ If your life depended upon jumping out of an airplane with a parachute, would you want that parachute to be tested by an expert before it is time to jump? _____ Which did David trust more—his armour or his God? _____ Is God worthy of our complete unquestioning trust or do we first need to test Him before we will trust Him? _____

4. TESTING (tempting) also involves **questioning**. As you do the following matching exercise, pay close attention to the various QUESTIONS that are asked in the various situations of testing:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">THE QUEEN OF SHEBA TESTING SOLOMON</p> <p>1) _____ Is Solomon really as wise as they tell me he is? Let’s see how well he answers my QUESTIONS!</p> | <p>A. Exodus 16:4</p> <p>B. Exodus 17:7</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">THE LORD TESTING HIS PEOPLE</p> <p>2) _____ Will they walk in My law or not?</p> <p>3) _____ Will Israel keep God’s commandments or not?</p> <p>4) _____ Will you love the LORD your God with all your soul or will you be deceived by a false prophet?</p> <p>5) _____ Will they keep the way of the LORD or not?</p> | <p>C. Deut. 8:2</p> <p>D. Deut. 13:3</p> <p>E. Psalm 78:18-19</p> <p>F. 1 Kings 10:1 2 Chron. 9:1</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">GOD’S PEOPLE TESTING THE LORD</p> <p>6) _____ Can God furnish (provide) a table in the wilderness?</p> <p>7) _____ Is the Lord among us or not?</p> | <p>G. Judges 2:22</p> |

Therefore, it can be said that we test God whenever we **doubt and question His Character**, that is, whenever we question His faithfulness, His power, His care, His concern, His presence, His love, His fairness, His sovereign working, etc.

5. Matching:

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1) _____ | The man who tests God says: | A. | Don't test Him, trust Him! |
| 2) _____ | The man who trusts God says: | B. | God is faithful! |
| 3) _____ | God has every right to say: | C. | Will you be faithful to Me? (Compare Judges 2:22) |
| 4) _____ | A helpful rule for the believer: | D. | Is God faithful? |

6. Read Numbers 21:4-6. According to the New Testament commentary on this passage (1 Cor. 10:9), how is their sin identified and described? _____

_____ Thought question: In what way did they question God's character? _____

Why is Numbers 21:4-6 relevant and important to us today according to 1 Corinthians 10:9,11? _____

7. Today we tempt the LORD whenever we question and doubt...

| | | | |
|----------|---|----|-------------|
| 1) _____ | God's sovereign working in our lives for our good. | A. | Phil. 4:13 |
| 2) _____ | God's shepherding care and concern. | B. | Phil. 4:19 |
| 3) _____ | God's super-abundant power and ability for every situation. | C. | Exodus 17:7 |
| 4) _____ | God's ample supply for every need that we have. | D. | Romans 8:28 |
| 5) _____ | God's ever present help in time of trouble. | E. | Psalm 23:1 |

8. Did the Lord Jesus need to test God as to whether He would really keep His promise of angelic protection and care (Matthew 4:6-7)? _____ Did God the Father fulfill this promise (v.11)? _____

9. What is the conclusion to this whole matter (Deut. 6:16)? _____

10. True or False: Israel tempted the LORD because they had no clear evidence or proof of God's working on their behalf (Psalm 95:9).

We do not need to prove (test) God because God has already proven Himself to be everything He said He is! If God could save your soul (solve your greatest problem), can He also take care of your day by day problems? _____ Does it make much sense to QUESTION or DOUBT His problem solving ability by daily complaints, murmurings and worries? _____ CONCLUSION: Only trust Him (Mark 5:36)!

What are some of the ways in which we might tempt the Lord each day?